

WCU

A UNC Campus on the Move!



Parks and Recreation Management

What makes this program special?

The PRM program at Western Carolina University (WCU) offers all the courses required for a Parks and Recreation degree, but we also integrate the unique natural features of Western North Carolina into our program. We are fortunate to be located in the mountains of western North Carolina, within a short distance of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Nantahala River.

Are there any additional admission requirements?

We require students to achieve and maintain a 2.5 GPA and we ask students to sit down with an advisor and complete a strategic plan prior to declaring their major.

What scholarship monies are available?

All students are considered for merit-based scholarships at the time of admission. Additional scholarships are available based on FAFSA information.

What will I be able to do with this degree when I graduate?

The field of parks and recreation offers graduate a wide range of career options. For this reason, we encourage students to gain experience in their chosen area through course work, internships and summer employment. Career options include employment with state and federal parks and forests; city and county recreation programs; military, campus and private recreation programs and commercial and resort recreation areas. With the wide variety of career options available, students are urged to chose a concentration area early and begin the steps necessary to secure a professional position upon graduation.

What are the professors like?

Dr. Tholkes and Dr. Phipps both received their Masters Degrees in Experiential Education, so they strongly believe in integrating a rigorous classroom program with experiential learning outside the classroom. Many of our classes have a LAB component which asks the students to take the classroom instruction into the field and demonstrate their mastery of the skills required by our profession.

Things you need to know

- Bachelor of Science Degree
- 120 hours required for the degree
- A 2.5 GPA is required to graduate from the program
- Internships are designed to get "hands on" skills in the field
- Guided electives will allow you to take courses that fit your needs
- LAB sessions will allow outdoor skills experience
- We work closely with the park service, forest service and other agencies
- Class sizes are limited to allow one-on-one assistance
- You can be certified through the National Ski Patrol, American Canoe Association, Wilderness Education Association, Red Cross
- Western Carolina offers unlimited outdoor recreation activities

Careers with this Degree

- City and country recreation programs
- State and local parks
- National Parks and National Forests
- Commercial and resort areas
- Outdoor leaders and guides
- Campus recreation programs
- Military recreation programs
- Private recreation programs

Contact

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Visit us online at gotowestern.com
or call 877.WCU.4YOU to apply to WCU.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Parks and Recreation Management

What are the students in the program doing?

We have students working around the state and across the country working in all aspects of parks and recreation.

Will I be able to participate in internships, clubs and other extracurricular opportunities?

The PRM program works closely with the WCU outdoor program (Basecamp Cullowhee) as leaders for rock climbing, caving, kayaking, and hiking trips. The past two years, we have had 5 groups of students present research at the WCU Undergraduate Research Expo and two groups of students have presented at the National Undergraduate Research Conference. All of our students complete a series of internships/coops and field experience in order to gain skills in their chosen area. We currently have a very strong international program and have had 5 exchange students from Ireland complete course work with us at WCU. We have a very active PRM majors club involved in many projects on campus.



The University

A campus of the University of North Carolina system, WCU is located in a beautiful valley between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains, with convenient access to a region that offers tremendous opportunities for outdoor research and recreation. Western is an hour's drive west of Asheville, N.C., and 2.5 hours northeast of Atlanta.

About 9,000 students are enrolled at Western, including about 1,700 graduate students. Some classes are available online for distance education, but most are offered in person on the main campus in Cullowhee, in Asheville, and at other locations throughout Western North Carolina. A combination of service learning and engagement in the community by faculty and students is a critical part of Western's tradition of academic excellence.

*Come Visit Campus
for an Open House*

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